

REMARKS

The Office Action dated May 12, 2003, examined claims 27-29, 32-38 and 41, finding claims 28, 29, 32-38 and 41 in condition for allowance, and further finding that claim 27 was anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102 in view of the disclosure of Sijm et al. (Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, 18(6):1109-1117, 1999).

In reply, Applicants have amended claim 27 to recite that X₂ is a phosphoramidite. Sijm et al. does not teach or suggest phosphoramidite-containing molecules. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants have added dependent claims 42-63. These newly added dependent claims further specify the chemical structure of the W group present in the compounds of the invention. Each of the corresponding independent claims specify that the W group may have a cyclic, acyclic or aromatic structure, as well as combinations thereof. The present specification provides illustrations of acyclic W groups (see, e.g., page 24, lines 10-15, which refers to a non-cyclic (*i.e.*, an acyclic) reagent that leads to a compound of the present invention have an acyclic W group as shown in Formula 3. A linker group W having a cyclic group is illustrated in Reaction Scheme 2 at page 24, line 9, where a pyrrolidinediol linking group (see, e.g., page 23, line 11) is employed to achieve a cyclic group within W. Accordingly, claims 42-63 do not constitute new matter.

Applicants have also added claim 64, which depends from claims 28, 32-36 or 48-57, and specifies that X₂ is a phosphoramidite. X₂ is identified as a phosphoramidite in, e.g., claims 28, 29, 37, 38, and 41, and accordingly the addition of claim 64 does not constitute new matter.

In addition, each of the independent claims have been amended so that the term "A quencher-phosphoramidite reagent compound" is more succinctly and accurately stated as "A compound". The term "quencher-phosphoramidite reagent" in

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the preamble of the claims was not intended to limit the claims, and accordingly the removal of this term does not constitute new matter.

A second Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently herewith. In addition, a Request for Continued Examination is being filed concurrently herewith in order to assure consideration of the references cited on the second Supplemental IDS, and entry of the present amendment.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090. Should any issue require attention prior to allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (206) 622-4900 to resolve the matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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